Sn. 10/760,469

17037266024

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MATS:031A

<u>REMARKS</u>

Pending claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 have been allowed. The examiner issued Ex parte Quayle action on the belief that applicants did not include a continuation data at the beginning of the specification, and because the Abstract does not contain "what is new in the art to which the present invention pertains."

Applicants submit that the application transmittal amended the specification to include the continuation data at the beginning of the specification. The data has been updated to reflect the U.S. patent number of the parent application.

The original Abstract is identical to the Abstract as allowed by the present examiner in the parent application. To this extent, it is not understood why the Abstract needs to be amended since the specification did not change and the Abstract does concisely describe the new features in the art to which the present invention pertains. Although the Abstract need not be amended, it has been amended to more concisely describe the present disclosure. Please note that the Abstract does not reflect the claimed invention, but instead what is disclosed in the specification.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Date: 08/06/04

Marc A. Rossi

Registration No. 31.923

Respectfully submitted

ROSSI & ASSOCIATES P.O. Box 826 Ashburn, VA 20146-0826

Phone: 703-726-6020